



A Civic Reflection: *The Lesson*

Materials Needed:

- Copies of *The Lesson* by Toni Cade Bambara

Learning Objectives:

- Students will learn that during their service-learning they are a guide to others and should begin to realize that throughout life they will appear as a role model to many.
- Students will be challenged to think more deeply about their impact on their organization and the people around them.

Overview:

1. Introduce the reading for the reflection, preferably prior to meeting, and have each student read the story to themselves.
2. Read the story out loud popcorn style or around the circle.
3. Upon conclusion of the story, transition into the discussion questions.
4. Use the discussion questions as a tool and guide, allow the conversation between students to flow.
5. Closing and last questions.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does Miss Moore "take responsibility for the young one's education"? Why do the parents of the children make them go along with Miss Moore?
2. Why does Miss Moore take the children to the toy store?
3. If Sylvia never talks to Miss Moore, what makes her ask how much a real boat costs? Why doesn't Miss Moore give her an answer to her question?
4. Why does Sylvia feel shame about going into the toy store?
5. What is Miss Moore trying to teach the children in telling them, "Where we are is who we are"?
6. What lesson is Miss Moore trying to teach the children? Do any of the children learn it?
7. At the end of the story, what does it mean that Sylvia is going to "think this day through"?
8. How would you describe Miss Moore's style of teaching? Is it the right style for the children in the story?
9. How can teaching be a kind of leadership? How can a teacher lead students to aspire to better lives without making them ashamed of the lives they are now living?
10. How can you lead those who seem not to want to be led?